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SUBJECT: Six Moderate Deputies Quit the Partido de la Revolución Guatemalteca.

Sr. Emilio ZEA González, First Vice President of the Guatemalan Congress, and five other of the fifteen deputies of the leftist Partido de la Revolución Guatemalteca (PRG) were reported in the press of October 14 to have submitted their "irrevocable resignations" from that party in a climax to the current quarrel between moderate PRG Deputies and the Communist-line PRG Political Committee. The six deputies who have resigned have indicated that they will continue to give unrestricted support to the Arbenz Administration, but are apparently uncertain if they will group together in an "independent" Administration bloc, form a new party, or join another of the Administration parties.

Apart from Sr. Zea González, a Harvard-trained economist, the resigning deputies are Sr. Carlos GARCIA Bauer, Chairman of Congress' Foreign Relations Committee (and several times member of the Guatemalan delegation to the United Nations); Lt. Abundio MALDONADO, Army officer and former student at the Harvard Graduate School; Sr. Amor VELASCO de León, radical ex-Secretary for Organization of the campesino federation, the CNCG; Sr. Alfonso ESTRADA Ricci, one time Guatemalan Consul General in New Orleans; and Sr. Ernesto FLORES Girón. All of these except Sr. Velasco have been among the most moderate of the Administration deputies in Congress; Sr. Velasco, although radical in his political approach, was expelled last year from the CNCG in a quarrel involving his opposition to closer cooperation between the CNCG and the Communists.

According to the newspapers, the resignations followed the PRG Political Committee's refusal of an "ultimatum" from the deputies demanding (a) the reinstatement of Sr. Juan José TEJADA Barrientos, expelled as Secretary for Organization for heading a leftist anti-Communist faction within the party and reportedly for seeking to be elected Secretary General; (b) removal of Sr. Alfonso SOLORZANO, Communist-line intellectual, as Director

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of the party newspaper Diario del Pueblo; (c) withdrawal of the Political Committee's decision suspending the Deputies from the "National Democratic Front;" (d) a stop to attacks on deputies for lack of discipline when they refused to follow instructions contrary to their duty to the electorate; and (e) a reorganization of the Political Committee to assure a more democratic development of the party.

The resignation of these Deputies is thus in essence a revolt against the Communist-line diligently pursued by Sr. Solórzano and a majority of the PRG Political Committee and the authoritarian tactics of Sr. Augusto CHARNAUD MacDonald, Minister of the Interior and PRG Secretary General, who appears to have cast his lot with the pro-Communist wing in his effort to be re-elected to the Secretary Generalship at the forthcoming party Congress. This dissension in the PRG is strikingly parallel to the internal quarrels arising from a combination of resentment of rising Communist influences and personal jealousies which is now shaking the Partido Acción Revolucionaria (my Desp. 319, October 14, 1953).

Rudolf E. Schoenfeld